

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY



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## ***Italian Festival Set for Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> At the Dante Alighieri Society Building and Grounds Jersey City Gets a Taste of Italy with Traditional Food, Drinks and Entertainment***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will proudly celebrate, as part of Jersey City’s Tapestry of Nations Ethnic Festival Series, the annual **Italian Festival** from **12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, September 14, 2008** at the **Dante Alighieri Society, 562 Summit Avenue.**

“The Italian festival is a celebration and extension of the great fun, food and family atmosphere of the Tapestry of Nations Ethnic Festivals,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This festival is another opportunity for our friends and neighbors to join with the Italian-American community here in Jersey City for a day to recollect, reaffirm and recount the overwhelming number of historical contributions that Italy has given the world in art, culture, science, health, governance, fashion, cinema and most especially great foods.”

Festival-goers will be able to sample authentic Italian cooking, while enjoying the free entertainment and cultural attractions. Each year, this family atmosphere enables everyone to see old friends and meet new people, while enjoying the rich Italian culture. The Italian festival has something for everyone from children to seniors.

**Debbie DuHaime** of 77WABC and Eyewitness News, will co-host the six hour long Italian Festival. Special guests include **Jamie Lynn Drohan** and **Joe Bisicchia** of Comcast CN8 and Newsmakers.

Mayor Healy will join **Gracie Red**, a local Italian songstress, in a duet offering American versions of Italian songs. The entertainment line-up also includes, the local widely acclaimed **Kennedy Dancers** will perform ‘La Dolce Vita’ and other Italian favorites. Entertainment also will be offered by the **Pete McCullough Trio** from ‘Streetlight Manifesto’ which will perform Sinatra, along with the renowned **Red Mike Band** of ‘Godfather III fame performing favorites such as ‘Mama’, ‘Ave Maria’ and the Godfather Theme.

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The documentary film, “**Caven Point**,” by Diane Dragone and Tom Horan, tells a story about the Italian prisoners of war who were held at Caven Point in Jersey City during WWII – will have its premier showing at the festival. **Richard La Rovere**, an accomplished Jersey City artist, will display his collection of ‘Fine Art.’ Italian songs by the **4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Entertainment** with **D.J. Greg** are also part of the program. And there will be amusements and rides, face painting and games for children.

Vendors will be offering a long list of items and souvenirs. The Dante Alighieri Society is offering ‘Make Wine With Us’ by vintners Diane Greco and John Gizzi, and people interested in learning the Italian language can sign up for lessons at the festival. Also included in the day’s activities are demonstrations on how to make mozzarella by Mike Morsella of ‘Cupo & Morsella Deli’ and America’s most favorite fast food – pizza, by Nick Folotichio of ‘Prince of Pizza.’

Jersey City’s Italian festival is sponsored by the **Dante Alighieri Society**, New Jersey’s oldest Italian-American organization which has played a significant role in raising awareness and appreciation of the rich traditions and customs of Italy. The Dante Alighieri Society exists to aid the Italian-American community by diffusing the Italian language, literature, culture, and traditions through schools, libraries, courses, lectures, and publications. The Dante Alighieri Society awards prizes, medals, diplomas, and scholarships to those who have displayed exemplary achievements and also provides the community with charitable relief to those in need. It is also the mission of the Dante Alighieri Society to assist Italian immigrants to establish themselves as citizens of the United States.

**For more information about the Italian Festival, call the Div. of Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921.**

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**